

# Current FACts

## FAC News to Use

February 27, 2014

### FAC Spotlight

#### IT Consolidation

*Largest IT project in state government history well underway*

Work on the largest IT consolidation project in state government history is progressing with activity across various agencies, which is keeping the entire COT team busy. More than 250 IT professionals have been integrated into COT within the last year and the Office of the State Budget Director was the first agency to have its infrastructure services fully migrated over to COT.

According to CIO Jim Fowler, this initiative is broad in scope and deep in complexity given the number of people involved, processes to be assessed, equipment to be evaluated and more. In a recent update to cabinet secretaries on the IT Infrastructure Initiative, also referred to as I.3, CIO Fowler pointed out that all the work accomplished to date could not have been accomplished without the active collaboration of the agencies involved.

I.3 kicked off with the smallest and largest agencies taking center stage – the **Office of the State Budget Director (OSBD)** and the **Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS)**.

“Since OSBD had a relatively small IT footprint, our thinking was to take whatever lessons we learned when working with them and apply them as we began working with CHFS,” said Fowler. “It worked out well and we did end up changing how we approached some things with CHFS.”

OSBD was completed in November 2013 and work on integrating CHFS is moving along at a tremendous pace. Once CHFS is consolidated, slated for late next month, more than 50 percent of state government IT infrastructure services will be under COT.

This project has a lot of moving pieces and parts, which means flexibility is an important aspect. While COT mapped out a schedule to work with agencies

over an 18-month timeframe, sometimes issues arose which has meant rearranging the timeline.

COT encountered a challenging issue at the Capital Plaza Tower in late 2013. It quickly became evident that datacenter equipment and services for the **Public Protection Cabinet (PPC)** and the **Energy & Environment Cabinet (EEC)** had to be moved before the end of the year.

“We knew we’d encounter some issues along the way that we maybe hadn’t thought of previously,” said Terry Stephens, executive director, Office of Infrastructure Services. “Our team pulled together to ensure a successful migration in the shortest amount of time possible. They have been nimble and always willing to do what needs to be done.”

In another quick turnaround, the **Office of Homeland Security** asked COT to rearrange the timeframe scheduled for its consolidation. COT immediately began work right after New Year’s and completed the entire move earlier this month.



“I cannot begin to express my appreciation for your assistance in our conversion to COT,” said Gene Kiser, executive director of the Office of Homeland Security. “The team that assisted with this was extremely professional and quickly acted on all of our requests for assistance. My staff loves their new equipment and up-to-date programs and there was very little down time.”

CHFS, PPC, EEC, **Personnel Cabinet** and the **Cabinet for Economic Development’s** migration to COT are expected to be completed in the March/April timeframe.

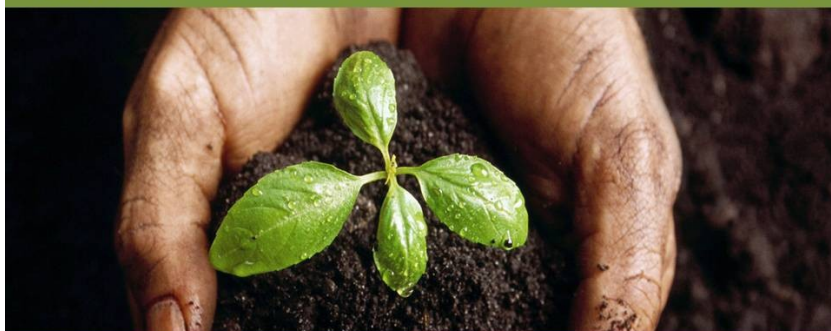
“There is still much work to be done, said Fowler. “Our goal is to stay on track to wrap this huge project up by mid-2015.”

“I commend everyone at COT and at the agencies for the cooperation and enthusiasm we have experienced.

This collaboration has been and continues to be essential in making this consolidation a success.”

Follow the conversion timeline at <http://technology.ky.gov/Pages/COTI3.aspx>

## HOME GARDENING LUNCH & LEARN



**WHERE:** The State Office Building Auditorium (A1/A2)

**WHEN:** March 19, 2014, from 12 PM – 1 PM

**SPEAKER:** Master Gardener Sue Van Patten

**TOPICS:** Home Gardening, Container Gardening, & Herbs

Hosted by the State Office Building Green Team

## In the News In the News

### Ford Awards Automotive Research Grant to Kentucky

*Kentucky-Argonne Battery Manufacturing R & D Center, UK to study battery performance*



Gov. Steve Beshear recently announced Ford has awarded the state a \$120,000 grant for automotive battery research. The University Research Project grant will be used to study the preparation of materials used in making electrodes. The goal is to lower the cost, shorten the development cycle, and improve the quality and performance of future batteries. It's the first such grant given to the Commonwealth from Ford for research and development.

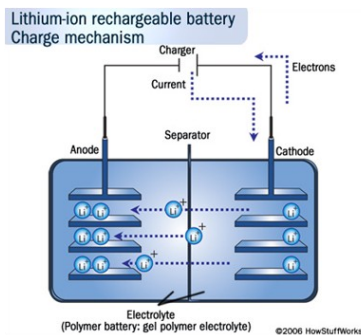
"Ford is showing tremendous faith in our workforce to not only assemble its vehicles, but also to make them even more innovative and efficient," said Gov. Beshear. "Advanced batteries continue to play a significant role in the energy and economic security of the United States, and Kentucky is leading the charge."

The three-year study will be conducted through the Kentucky-Argonne Battery Manufacturing Research and Development Center in Lexington and the University of Kentucky.

Ted Miller, Ford senior manager of energy storage and materials strategy and research, said, "We are focusing the research here on how the battery electrodes are made. Today, we use a slurry powder and apply it over a thin film of aluminium or copper. The trick is in making the slurry uniform and applying it evenly. The more evenly we can apply a uniform slurry mix, the better the performance. Our collaboration with the Kentucky-Argonne Battery Manufacturing Research and Development Center is an important piece of the battery technology puzzle."

The Ford project presents some unique challenges and opportunities to advance state-of-the-art battery manufacturing research and development, and training in Kentucky. Since opening in 2012, the Kentucky-Argonne Battery Manufacturing Research and Development Center works with industries, universities and federal labs that specialize in battery research and develop programs. The center's aim is to re-establish the United States as a world leader in battery manufacturing technologies. The facility is located within the Kentucky Energy Research Complex in Lexington.

"We appreciate the confidence Ford has put in us to partner with them in the area of developing the technology for vehicle electrification," said Dr. Tony Hancock, executive director of the Kentucky-Argonne Battery Manufacturing Research and Development Center. "This is yet one more step toward realizing Gov. Beshear's dream of making Kentucky a leader in battery technology. Performing this original research will advance state-of-the-art lithium ion battery production."



## Dept. of Revenue Offers Free e-File Assistance to Finance Cabinet Employees

For tax year 2013, Finance & Administration Cabinet employees will be offered the opportunity to file their state and federal individual income tax returns electronically with assistance from the Department of Revenue (DOR).

Electronic filing offers many benefits such as faster processing, faster refunds and direct deposit. This service is offered to employees only and does not include returns with business schedules such as C, D, E, F and Form 2106.

Eligible employees may schedule an appointment or drop off completed returns at the Frankfort Taxpayer Service Center located at 501 High Street, telephone number 502-564-5930.

Eligible employees may also call and schedule an appointment at any of the other nine taxpayer service centers located throughout the state.

For a list of service center locations and telephone numbers, visit <http://revenue.ky.gov/aboutus/taxpayerservicecenters.htm>.

Participating employees must complete and sign their state and federal tax returns as well as the attached Form [8879](#), Form [8879-K](#) and the Federal Form [13614-C](#); Intake/Interview & Quality Sheet. You can also access these forms via the Finance intranet site.

All of this information, as well as W2s, should be placed in an envelope with the employee name daytime telephone number, and mailing address. Returns will be entered and transmitted as soon as possible; usually within four or five working days. Original forms will be returned to the employee after successful transmittal acknowledgement from the IRS.

If you have any questions, please contact Juanita Noel in the Frankfort Taxpayer Service Center at 502-564-9448.

## Special Election Set for March 11 in Carter County Precincts

Registered voters in precincts

D102- Clark Hill  
D103- Eagle Hill  
E101- Brickyard  
E103- Olive Hill Courthouse  
E104- Smoky Valley

are entitled to vote in this special election. Four hours of vote leave can be requested and must be done so in advance.

Check with your supervisor for rules and regulations regarding vote